



contradictory in that it first indicates that the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features, yet later indicates that the special technical features are common to all species. See, OA, pg. 3, lines 6-15. Accordingly, the OA has not given sufficient reasons to require restriction, and Applicants request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

### **Drawing Objections**

The OA indicates that the drawings are objected to for a number of issues related to cross hatching, lines, and reference labels. Applicants have submitted replacement drawings that address those issues. Applicants have also amended the specification, including the abstract, to remove reference numbers 15b and 24b that were removed from the drawings.

Applicants note that Figures 1 and 2 are designated as prior art. However, Applicants respectfully disagree that Figures 3 and 5 should be so designated. The assembly method of Figures 3 and 5 are not prior art.

### **Claim Objections**

The OA indicates that Claim 4 is objected to, because a letter is capitalized. Applicants have amended the letter to be lower case.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112**

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the OA indicates that the free end of the guide cannot be wider and narrower at the same instance. Applicants note that the plain meaning of the claim language is clear that the free end of the guide portion is wider than the opening of the band only when the corrugated protrusions extend radially outwards, and the free end of the guide portion is narrower than the opening of the band only when the corrugated protrusions extend radially inwards. The claim language specifies that the corrugated protrusions *either* extend radially outwards or radially inwards. Thus, the free end of the guide portion is clearly *either* wider or narrower, but not both. Nevertheless, as discussed below, Applicants have amended independent



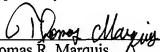
withdrawn. It is well established that dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their corresponding independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 2-4, 6, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) also be withdrawn.

### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Although only certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentable. Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future.

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Respectfully submitted,

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